

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

September 2012 – Week 4

Air Date: September 23 – September 29 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: CHUTES OVER TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 1929 AND ANOTHER FIRST IN THE SKIES OF TEXAS.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

SEPTEMBER 28, 1929. BROOKS FIELD NEAR SAN ANTONIO. DEVELOPED AFTER WORLD WAR I, THE PARACHUTE IS PRIMARILY A LIFE-SAVING DEVICE.

BUT TODAY, IT IS BEING USED IN A DIFFERENT WAY.

LYING ACROSS THE WINGS OF BIPLANES, TROOPS WEARING PARACHUTES LIFT INTO THE AIR. ABOVE A CROWD OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES THE SOLDIERS SLIP FROM THE WINGS, DEPLOY THEIR CHUTES AND FLOAT TO THE FIELD BELOW. ON THE GROUND THEY QUICKLY SET UP MACHINE GUNS.

IT IS THE FIRST MASS PARACHUTE DROP IN HISTORY. THE EXPERIMENT PROVES THE PARACHUTE CAN BE USED IN COMBAT.

A DECADE LATER PARACHUTE WARFARE CHANGED HISTORY IN WORLD WAR II.

TROOPS FELL FROM THE TEXAS SKY 83 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

Edward B. Alcott, "BROOKS AIR FORCE BASE," *Handbook of Texas Online*

(<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qbb05>), accessed September 13, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

"Brooks City-Base, Texas," *GlobalSecurity.org* (<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/brooks.htm>), accessed September 13, 2012.

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Save Texas History Program

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